

4th March 2019



Dear Parents

I am writing to you today to update you on reasons why the re-registration process for Talbot has been delayed and not commenced yet as normal.

We are in a new wave of change within schools and over the last couple of years we have noticed schools are starting to develop their own on-site clubs; meaning my services have changed and are further changing.

Candystripe pride themselves on offering wrap around childcare to families on and off site, and, have done so successfully for 15 years. We currently care for over 200 children a day most of which are off-site from their school.

Talbot school club was initially started in 1995 by a company I merged with in 2004 called A Child's Place. It started by collecting children and taking them to Lidgett Park Church, a stone's throw away. Sarah started this process and has worked for the company for 24 years. She is a credit to the team and the company.

Normally every March we start our re-registration process. We are unable to do so at present and I want to update you on the reason, so you do not think Candystripe are delaying the process.

As I said the wave of change started in 2016 when Immaculate Heart School decided to run their own on-site club, and since then last year Gledhow too started their own club.

I have always remained clear that I agree with this decision for schools to do this. I worked very hard with Immaculate heart school to transition this change and since also with Gledhow. We remain part of the choice parents have for childcare from these schools. We still collect an average of 25 children a night from Immaculate Heart and an average of 30 a night from Gledhow and an average of 14 per night from Moortown.

This continuation of service shows my staff and service to be on the map, I know you will agree the work Sarah and her team do at the club is fantastic and this deserves our respect.

So why am I telling you this? We are awaiting a decision from the school about the future of our service within the school. This does not mean the service will stop, it just means a potential change of ownership. I am positive that whatever decision the school make we can continue to work together to ensure the service you receive is the best you can get, and, alongside this also offer choices of care. Of course, for the record I and my team would like to continue the service on-site.

I have been informed this week by the school that a Governors Resources meeting is being held on 24th April 2019 when the school will discuss further with regards to the future of the club; I know also there are space issues to consider within the school and I respect the school will make their decision based on many factors.

So where does that leave us at the moment? I was hoping to have a very seamless re-registration this year. Since the new computer system is in place and working extremely well this will allow us an easier and paper free system for current

customers. If we are asked to remain and continue our work for the school, this will resume and take place as soon as possible.

As part of our normal re-reg process each March we had planned over the coming fortnight to start phoning all parents to check and confirm arrangements for the coming year; allowing us to know of any vacant spaces so they could be allocated for new parents starting at the school. However, due to the date of the school meeting there is a delay and I wanted to be honest with you about this situation. This is not related to our service and not in our control.

I must and will respect the processes and decisions of the school, and, will continue to work hard to ensure the service continues with Candystripe if the school want us to do so. Whatever the decision I will work hard to ensure a smooth transition takes place. I hope to collaborate with the school and offer places offsite where needed and if the school capacity is full.

If we are asked to leave, we can offer some off-site places at Lidgett Park Church where we also have children from Gledhow, Moortown and Immaculate Heart Schools. We already use a 48-seater coach and this collection could include Talbot to transport to the Church in a very safe manner. The consultation for this will open once the school make their decision and if the decision is asking us to leave.

I will continue to work hard to ensure staff are protected, that we continue the service for as long as possible, and to work with all parties to ensure a continuation of the service you are using and a smooth transition if required.

I am available to discuss this with parents as and when required. I will be available at the club to speak to parents on Wednesday 20th March. If anyone would like to meet or I can discuss this earlier on the phone, please call me on 0113 268 9443 and press option 6.

If you are unable to meet on 20th March at the club, I am more than happy to meet on another date which can be organised. I will not be able to meet after 6pm on 20th as the cleaners come to clean and our rental is only until this time. However, I can organise appointments if required on other days. Please feel free to email me on anna@candystripeinc.co.uk with your concerns or when you can meet, and I will organise.

I have worked with this school for a long time and will respect whatever decision they make. I hope to work closely with them to build the future of childcare and the choices that parents deserve to have; as each child is so different and deserves the best childcare that we can offer them.

Kind regards

Anna

Anna Robinson

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